

You Are Invited to  
**A CALL FOR ACTION!**  
National Church Burning Status Conference  
**The Burning of America's Places of Worship;**  
**"Just for the Thrill of It!"**

December 13-15, 2007  
Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel, Atlanta, GA

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**WHY RESPOND TO THE CALL?**

"All across the nation, young people and young adults, between the ages of 10 and 30; boys and girls, young men and women, are roaming the country burning America's churches. What does this activity say about a society when a segment of its young people are burning down the house of God, attacking the visible church and other places of worship? And, what is our responsibility beyond punishment and forgiveness to respond to these warning signs and take action?" Rose Johnson-Mackey NCBC Program Director

For more than 100 years, the Black church has been subjected to burnings and bombings because of racism and racial violence. Today, these acts of terror still threaten to disrupt the worship experience of congregations across the nation by creating a paralyzing sense of fear. Yet, it is from the Black church burning experience that the National Coalition has been able to look through the lens of this problem to view a bigger picture.

NCBC has been documenting and monitoring church burning activity nationwide for the last ten years. From these monitoring efforts, we have witnessed what we believe to be a very troubling, neglected reality. The reality is that America's young people are burning down her churches without regard to race or denomination. While we understand that there are other persons and motivations responsible for the burning of churches, this problem plaguing our nations young people warrants concentrated attention.

Since 2005, more than 500 arsons, bombings, suspicious and undetermined fires have occurred in the United States. NCBC recently conducted a random sampling of 100 of these incidents covering 34 states. Of the total number selected, young people were arrested in more than fifty percent of the cases leaving congregations all across America stunned and terrified. While the Black church is historically predisposed to be subjected to these hate filled attacks; young people involved in these acts of terror torched Black and white churches and those of other people of color. Their targets were Catholic, Protestant ---Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Missionary Baptist, Brethren, Church of Christ, Jehovah Witness, Mormon and others. The magnitude of these cases and others like them represents an unbelievable social crisis for the United States. We believe this issue is a social crisis today, simply because it has been ignored far too long.

**WHY WE CAN'T WAIT?**

In April 2007, three young college students were sentenced for burning nine Alabama churches in a rampage that "started as a joke." Despite an aggressive investigation and successful federal/state prosecutions, churches continued to burn in Alabama. In two separate incidents, four young people ages 14-19 (two per church) were arrested on arson charges. In one of these cases, a 16 year-old and a 14 year-old used a Molotov cocktail to set the church on fire. During this same period, a small rural-Black church destroyed by three young people in 1997, held its dedication services in October of this year---after struggling for ten years to rebuild.

***Established 1997***

National Coalition for Burned Churches PO Box 40784 Charleston, SC 29423 Ph 843.821.9590\* 843 875.7394\* Email:  
[ncfbccp@aol.com](mailto:ncfbccp@aol.com) Website [www.ncfbc.org](http://www.ncfbc.org)

Our Commitment: *"Protecting the right to worship in Peace; free from the threat of arson, bombing and vandalism."*

# You Are Invited to A CALL FOR ACTION!

As churches were burning in Alabama, young people were also arrested in Georgia and North Carolina. And in other states...

- Texas- Three young men who believed that "there are too many churches and denominations attempted to burn down a church twice by detonating an explosive device."
- Oregon- Young people were arrested for trying to burn down a school and destroying a church. Anarchy symbols, pentagrams, religious slurs and swastikas were reportedly painted on both walls.
- Utah- A 16-year-old was ordered to pay \$1.9 million in restitution for arson of a Salt Lake City Church.

The dialogue will focus on these and other issues.

How does the idea to target a church for destruction enter into the mind of a young person? What moves the idea from a thought to a criminal act, whether committed foolishly or with evil intent? When do these acts legally and morally become anti-religious?

## CONFERENCE DETAILS

Join us for prayer, reflection, dialogue, discussion, and action.

Thursday, December 13th

3:00pm

Registration/Check in  
Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel

5:00pm

6:00pm

Dinner on your own  
Depart for Ebenezer Baptist Church

7:00pm

Worship and Candle Lighting Service  
Speaker: Andrew Young  
Former UN Ambassador  
Ebenezer Baptist Church  
Auburn Avenue

Day 2 Friday, December 14

9:00am-5:00pm

7:00pm

Conference Work Session  
GALA "Grateful Awards" Banquet

Day 3 Saturday, December 15

9:00am-12:00noon

12:00n

Conference Work Session  
Adjourn

- Hotel/Logistics

Conference registration\$50

- Hotel Rates

\$109 singles/ doubles. Reservation deadline Saturday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 404.659.1400 or register on line [www.ncfbc.org](http://www.ncfbc.org)

For additional information call at 843.875.7394 or 843.821.9590 email [ncfbccp@aol.com](mailto:ncfbccp@aol.com).

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